

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05867 01 OF 02 271542Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----005092 271544Z /43

O 271535Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9628

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 05867

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: OGEN, PINS, UR
SUBJECT: SAKHAROV VISITS EMBASSY

REF: MOSCOW 03593

SUMMARY. SAKHAROV CAME TO EMBASSY MARCH 24 TO RAISE AGAIN ISSUE OF USE OF DIPLOMATIC POUCH FOR TRANSMISSION OF HIS PERSONAL MAIL AND "PUBLIC" DOCUMENTS. EMBOFF EXPLAINED POLICY OF ACCEPTING UNOFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE WHEN IT IS ADDRESSED TO USG OFFICIALS INCLUDING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, BUT SAKHAROV SAID THESE GUIDELINES DID NOT MEET HIS NEEDS. HE REQUESTED EMBASSY TRANSMIT LETTER ABOUT HIS COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS TO NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI. EMBOFF AGREED TO FORWARD LETTER. END SUMMARY.

1. SAKHAROV TELEPHONED EMBASSY MARCH 24 TO ARRANGE MEETING TO DISCUSS WHAT HE CALLED A "PURELY CONSULAR MATTER." MEETING WAS AGREED TO FOR SAME DAY. SAKHAROV ENTERED AND LEFT EMBASSY WITHOUT INCIDENT.

2. IN INTERVIEW, SAKHAROV ALMOST IMMEDIATELY RAISED MATTER OF HIS REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO USE POUCH TO MAIL PERSONAL LETTERS AND MATERIAL OF A "PUBLIC INTEREST"
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05867 01 OF 02 271542Z

NATURE (REFTEL). HE ASKED IF EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED REPLY FROM DEPARTMENT CONCERNING THIS REQUEST. EMBOFF EXPLAINED THAT EMBASSY STANDS BY ITS POLICY THAT UNOFFICIAL MAIL ADDRESSED TO USG OFFICIALS INCLUDING CONGRESSMEN WOULD BE ACCEPTED FOR FORWARDING BY EMBASSY FACILITIES, BUT THAT MAIL ADDRESSED TO PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS COULD NOT BE SENT BY EMBASSY.

3. SAKHAROV REQUESTED TO SEE DEPARTMENT ANSWER TO HIS REQUEST FOR "SPECIAL" COMMUNICATIONS PRIVILEGES. EMBOFF EXPLAINED SUCH COMMUNICATIONS ARE PRIVILEGED DOCUMENTS. SAKHAROV SAID HE APPRECIATED THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION, BUT HIS NEEDS WERE SUCH THAT HE FELT COMPELLED TO WRITE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF HIS REQUEST TO USE THE POUCH. EMBOFF ACCEPTED. LETTER FROM SAKHAROV TO BRZEZINSKI AND SAID IT WOULD BE FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. DR. SAKHAROV THANKED EMBOFFS FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE AND LEFT.

4. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF LETTER FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. BRZEZINSKI: I HAVE DECIDED TO TURN TO YOU WITH THIS CONFIDENTIAL LETTER CONTAINING CERTAIN REQUESTS SINCE I BELIEVE THAT, BY FORCE OF CIRCUMSTANCE WHICH HAVE DEVELOPED, MY DIFFICULTIES IN THE PUBLIC AND EVEN IN THE PURELY PRIVATE REALMS HAVE A DEFINITE GENERAL SIGNIFICANCE AND IN PARTICULAR HAVE A BEARING ON THE AIMS OF U.S. POLICY AS PROCLAIMED BY THE PRESIDENT.

THE FIRST REQUEST RELATES TO THE PERSONAL SECURITY OF THOSE MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY WHO NOW LIVE IN THE U.S. THESE ARE MY STEP-DAUGHTER TATYANA YANKELEVICH, HER HUSBAND YEFREM YANKELEVICH, AND THEIR CHILDREN, MY GRANDCHILDREN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 05867 01 OF 02 271542Z

MATVEY AND ANNA, AND ALSO MY STEP-SON ALEKSEY SEMENOV WHO WILL SOON ARRIVE IN THE U.S. FROM ITALY. THEIR ADDRESS IS 509 WASHINGTON STREET, APT. 3, BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02135. WHILE THEY LIVED IN THE USSR THE YANKELEVICH FAMILY WAS REPEATEDLY THREATENED BECAUSE OF MY PUBLIC ACTIVITY AND I FEEL THAT THE U.S. SECURITY ORGANS MUST BE INFORMED OF THIS AND ALSO OF MY FEARS IN ORDER TO TAKE SUCH PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AS THEY SEE FIT.

ANOTHER REQUEST CONCERNS POSTAL COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE ABROAD WHO SHARE MY PUBLIC AND PERSONAL GOALS. I HAVE NOT HAD NORMAL POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION WITH THE WEST SINCE DECEMBER 1974. THE USE OF THE TELEPHONE FOR COMMUNICATIONS OF A PUBLIC CHARACTER IS COMPLETELY RULED OUT AND EVEN PERSONAL CONVERSATIONS ARE NOT ALLOWED. FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES WE DO NOT RECEIVE LETTERS EITHER. THREATENING LETTERS SEEM TO BE AN EXCEPTION TO THIS. I AM SUBJECTED TO A NEAR TOTAL BLOCKADE. THIS PLACES ME IN AN EXTRAORDINARILY DIFFICULT POSITION, HARMS MY PUBLIC ACTIVITY AND IS PERSONALLY HIGHLY TRAUMATIC.

--.-'

IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY OF LAST YEAR A MEMORABLE EXCHANGE
OF LETTERS TOOK PLACE BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND ME.
AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW, I DID NOT TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN
THIS EXCHANGE AND, IN ANY CASE, I DID NOT PUBLICIZE
IT. IN MY FIRST LETTER I ESPECIALLY ASKED ASSISTANCE
IN MY COMMUNICATIONS. (I HAVE SPOKEN OF THIS IN NEARLY
ALL OF MY STATEMENTS.) I REGARD THE FACT THAT THE
PRESIDENT CONSIDERED IT POSSIBLE TO ANSWER ME AS INDIRECT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05867 02 OF 02 271547Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----005156 271550Z /43
O 271535Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9629

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 05867
EXDIS

AGREEMENT TO HELP IN MY REQUEST. I AM ALSO AWARE THAT
THIS PROBLEM OF MINE HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN SOME FASHION
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. IN PRACTICAL TERMS, HOWEVER,
THE SITUATION HAS NOT ONLY REMAINED UNSATISFACTORY BUT
RECENTLY HAS BECOME SIMPLY CATASTROPHIC (CONSIDERABLY
WORSE THAN WITH MANY OTHER DISSIDENTS AND REFUSENIKS).

ON MARCH 3 I VISITED THE U.S. CONSULATE (EMBASSY CONSULAR
SECTION) WITH A REQUEST TO FORWARD MY LETTER TO THE
U.S. TO MY SON-IN-LAW YEFREM YANKELEVICH. THIS LETTER
CONTAINED, ALONG WITH TWO PAGES OF A PURELY PERSONAL
CHARACTER, IMPORTANT OPEN DOCUMENTS OF A PUBLIC CHARACTER
(IN PARTICULAR MY OPEN APPEALS, DOCUMENTS OF THE HELSINKI
GROUP ETC). FROM A PRACTICAL POINT OF VIEW THIS IS THE
MOST EXPEDIENT MANNER OF FORWARDING PUBLIC DOCUMENTS
SINCE MY SON-IN-LAW FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE SITUATION AND
WILL IMMEDIATELY SEND EACH DOCUMENT TO THE PROPER PLACE.
THE COUNSELOR (SIC) OF THE EMBASSY MR. HUGHES REFUSED
TO TAKE THIS LETTER, STATING THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH
INSTRUCTIONS OF THE AMBASSADOR, LETTERS OF A PERSONAL
CHARACTER CANNOT BE SENT. I EXPLAINED THAT THE LETTER
DID NOT HAVE A PURELY PERSONAL CHARACTER BUT MR. HUGHES,
IT SEEMED TO ME, IGNORED MY EXPLANATIONS. UPON MY
REQUEST, MR. HUGHES PROMISED TO QUESTION THE DEPARTMENT

OF STATE. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT FORM THIS QUESTION TOOK
AND THEREFORE DECIDED TO WRITE THIS DETAILED LETTER TO
YOU PERSONALLY."
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05867 02 OF 02 271547Z

I REQUEST THAT THE QUESTION OF MY COMMUNICATIONS
BE SETTLED IN SUCH A MANNER THAT I CAN REGULARLY, EVEN
IF ONLY ONCE A MONTH, SEND MY SON-IN-LAW CORRESPONDENCE
OF A BASICALLY PUBLIC CHARACTER IN WHICH I MAY
ENCLOSE A COUPLE OF PAGES OF A PURELY PERSONAL CHARACTER
AND THAT A SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR
RETURN CORRESPONDENCE.

WITH DEEP REGARDS AND WITH BEST WISHES, A. SAKHAROV

MARCH 23, 1978
MOSCOW B-120
CHKALOVA 48-B, APT. 68
227-27-20

END TEXT.

5. COMMENT: WE FEEL, GIVEN POUCH REGULATIONS AND
INTERNATIONAL LAW ON USE OF DIPLOMATIC POUCH, WE MUST
STAND FIRM IN OUR POSITION AND INSIST ONLY OFFICIAL MAIL
AND MAIL ADDRESSED TO OFFICIALS OF USG INCLUDING MEMBERS
OF CONGRESS BE ACCEPTED FOR TRANSMITTAL BY POUCH. WE
DO NOT SEE HOW WE CAN MAKE AN EXCEPTION FOR SAKHAROV
WITHOUT SOON HAVING TO MAKE EXCEPTIONS FOR MANY OTHERS.
WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT US OF POUCH BY SAKHAROV FOR PERSONAL
COMMUNICATIONS WOULD BE KNOWN BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES
WHO WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO CHARGE US WITH A VIOLATION OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW.

6. ORIGINAL OF SAKHAROV LETTER BEING POUCHED MARCH 27
TO EUR/SOV UNDER REGISTRY NUMBER 3652889. TOON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, VISITS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW05867
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780132-1169
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780322/aaaaasmk.tel
Line Count: 210
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 46ba12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 3593
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3195777
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAKHAROV VISITS EMBASSY
TAGS: OGEN, PINS, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/46ba12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014